

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 14, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 643

Introduced by Assembly Member Wesson

February 23, 1999

An act to add Article 4 (commencing with Section 9800) to Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 3 of the Unemployment Insurance Code, relating to job training.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 643, as amended, Wesson. Job training: California ~~Youthbuild~~ *YouthBuild* Program.

Existing law provides for the Employment Development Department to administer various job training and placement programs and services.

This bill would create the California—~~Youthbuild~~ *YouthBuild* Program within the Employment Development Department to help disadvantaged youth obtain education and employment skills in conjunction with the construction or rehabilitation of housing for special need populations, very low income households, and low-income households. This bill would provide for the Director of Employment Development to make grants to public or private nonprofit entities, who would recruit and select eligible participants for a program. This bill would specify the requirements for participation in a program for the applicant entities and the program participants. This bill would enact other related provisions.

The bill would become operative only if funds are specifically appropriated for the California YouthBuild program by ~~the Budget Act of 1999~~ a state budget act.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited
2 as the California Youthbuild Act.

3 SEC. 2. Article 4 (commencing with Section 9800) is
4 added to Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 3 of the
5 Unemployment Insurance Code, to read:

6
7 Article 4. California ~~Youthbuild~~ YouthBuild Program
8

9 9800. The purposes of the California ~~Youthbuild~~
10 YouthBuild Program shall be all of the following:

11 (a) To enable economically disadvantaged youth,
12 especially youth who have not finished high school, to
13 obtain the education, job skills training, personal
14 counseling, leadership development skills training, job
15 placement assistance, and long-term followup services
16 necessary for them to achieve permanent economic
17 self-sufficiency, while at the same time providing
18 valuable community service that addresses urgent
19 community needs, including the demand for affordable
20 housing and the need for young role models and mentors
21 for younger teenagers and children.

22 (b) To provide communities with the opportunity to
23 establish or rebuild neighborhood stability in
24 economically depressed and low-income areas, as well as
25 historic areas requiring restoration or preservation, while
26 providing economically disadvantaged youth, and youth
27 who have not finished high school, an opportunity for a
28 meaningful participation in society.

29 (c) To allow communities to expand the supply of
30 affordable housing for homeless and other low-income
31 individuals by utilizing the energies and talents of

1 economically disadvantaged youth and young people
2 who have not graduated from school.

3 (d) To foster the development of leadership skills and
4 a commitment to community development among youth.

5 9801. (a) (1) The director, from funds appropriated
6 for this purpose to the ~~Youthbuild~~ YouthBuild Program,
7 may make grants to applicants for the purpose of carrying
8 out programs as authorized by this article. All programs
9 shall have strong youth and community involvement.

10 (2) *The director shall develop written guidelines to*
11 *ensure that each program funded pursuant to this article*
12 *establishes a verifiable goal of obtaining qualified*
13 *administrative staff that reflect the diversity of the*
14 *participants in the program and the community served*
15 *by the program. Each program shall comply with those*
16 *guidelines.*

17 (b) For purposes of this article, the following terms
18 have the following meaning:

19 (1) “YouthBuild Program” means the overall
20 California ~~Youthbuild~~ YouthBuild Program, as
21 coordinated by the director.

22 (2) “Program” means an individual program funded
23 by a grant made by the director to an applicant as part of
24 the overall ~~Youthbuild~~ YouthBuild Program.

25 (c) “Applicant” means an entity that applies for a
26 program grant pursuant to Section 9807.

27 (d) “Participant” means a person eligible to
28 participate in a program pursuant to Section 9805.

29 9802. Programs shall provide, at a minimum, all of the
30 following services:

31 (a) (1) Acquisition, rehabilitation, acquisition and
32 rehabilitation, or construction of housing and related
33 facilities to be used for the purpose of providing
34 homeownership for disadvantaged persons, residential
35 housing for homeless individuals and very low income
36 families, or transitional housing for persons who are
37 homeless, ill, deinstitutionalized, or who have disabilities
38 or special needs.

39 (2) Rehabilitation or construction of community
40 facilities owned by public agencies or nonprofit entities.

(b) (1) Integrated education and job training services and activities or an equally-divided basis, with 50 percent of participants' time spent in classroom-based instruction, counseling, and leadership development instruction, and 50 percent of participants' time spent in experiential training on the construction site.

(2) The education component described in paragraph (1) shall include basic skills instruction, secondary education services, and other activities designed to lead to the attainment of a high school diploma or its equivalent. The curriculum for this component shall include math, language arts, vocational education, life skills training, social studies related to the cultural and community history of the participants, leadership skills, and other topics at the discretion of the program. Bilingual services shall be available for individuals with limited English proficiency. A program shall have a goal of a minimum teacher-to-participant ratio of one teacher for every 18 participants.

(3) The job training component described in paragraph (1) shall involve work experience and skills training apprenticeships related to construction and rehabilitation activities described in subdivision (a). The process of construction shall be coupled with skills training and with close onsite supervision by experienced trainers. The curriculum for this component shall contain a set of locally agreed-upon skills and competencies that are systematically taught, with participants' mastery assessed individually on a regular, ongoing basis. Safety skills shall be taught at the outset. A program shall have a goal of a minimum trainer-to-participant ratio of one trainer for every seven participants. This component shall be coordinated to the maximum extent feasible with preapprenticeship and apprenticeship opportunities.

(4) Assistance in attaining postsecondary education and in obtaining financial aid shall be made available to participants prior to graduation from the program.

(c) Counseling services designed to assist participants in positively participating in society, including all of the following, as necessary: outreach, assessment, and

1 orientation; individual and peer counseling; life skills
2 training, drug and alcohol abuse education and
3 prevention; and referral to appropriate drug
4 rehabilitation, medical, mental health, legal, housing, and
5 other community services and resources. A program shall
6 have a goal of a minimum counselor-to-participant ratio
7 of one counselor for every 28 participants.

8 (d) (1) Leadership development training that
9 provides participants with meaningful opportunities to
10 develop leadership skills, including decisionmaking,
11 problem solving, and negotiating. A program shall
12 encourage participants to develop strong peer group ties
13 that support their mutual pursuit of skills and values.

14 (2) Each program shall establish a youth council in
15 which participants are afforded opportunities to develop
16 public speaking and negotiating skills, and management
17 and policymaking participation in specific aspects of the
18 program.

19 (e) Each participant shall be provided with a training
20 subsidy, living allowance, or stipend of not less than eight
21 dollars (\$8) per hour for the time spent at the worksite in
22 construction training. For those participants who receive
23 public assistance, this training subsidy, living allowance,
24 or stipend shall not affect housing benefits, medical
25 benefits, child care benefits, or food stamp benefits, to the
26 extent consistent with federal law. The training subsidy,
27 living allowance, or stipend may be distributed in a
28 manner that offers incentives for good performance.

29 (f) Full time participation in a program shall be
30 offered for a period of not less than six months and not
31 more than 24 months.

32 (g) A concentrated effort shall be made to find
33 construction, construction-related, or nonconstruction
34 jobs for all graduates of the program who have performed
35 well. The job training curriculum shall provide
36 participants with basic preparation for seeking and
37 maintaining a job. Followup counseling and assistance in
38 job seeking shall also be provided to participants for a
39 period of 12 months following graduation from the
40 program.

(h) A program serving 20 or more participants is required to have a full-time director responsible for the coordination of the requirements of this article.

9803. Program grants may be used for the activities in Section 9802 and for any of the following activities:

(a) Legal fees for housing acquisition.

(b) Administrative *and technical assistance* costs of the program applicant that may not exceed 15 percent of the program grant, or another amount as is determined by the director to be necessary to support capacity development of a private nonprofit community-based organization. *The applicant may contract with a technical assistance provider approved by the director.*

(c) Defraying costs for the ongoing training and technical assistance needs of the program applicant that are related to developing and carrying out the program.

~~9804. The director may reserve up to five percent of the total sum appropriated for purposes of the Youthbuild Program to enter into a contract with Youthbuild U.S.A. to provide assistance in the provision of training and technical assistance in the management, supervision, and coordination of the Youthbuild Program and the programs funded pursuant to this article.~~

9805. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), eligible participants in a program shall be youth between the ages of ~~16~~ 17 and 24, inclusive, who are economically disadvantaged, as defined in Section 1503 of Title 29 of the United States Code, and who are in one of the following groups:

(1) Persons who are not attending any school and who have not received a secondary school diploma or its equivalent.

(2) Persons currently enrolled in a traditional or alternative school setting or a GED program and who are in danger of dropping out of school.

(3) Very low income persons whose incomes are at or less than 50 percent of the area median income area, adjusted for family size, as estimated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(b) Not more than 25 percent of program participants may be individuals who do not meet the requirements of subdivision (a). These participants shall be persons who have educational needs despite the attainment of a high school diploma.

9806. (a) Priority in awarding grants under this article shall be given to applicants that have experience in operating a program funded with Youthbuild funds.

(b) Entities eligible for grants under this article shall be nonprofit private entities and public agencies with experience in operating youth construction skills training, education, job placement, personal development, leadership development, and housing rehabilitation or construction programs.

9807. An application for a grant under this article shall, at a minimum, contain all of the following:

(a) The amount of the grant requested and the proposed use of the grant.

(b) A description of the applicant and a statement of the applicant's qualifications, including a description of the applicant's past experience in running a ~~Youthbuild~~ *YouthBuild* program, if applicable, a description of the applicant's past experience with housing rehabilitation or construction, youth and youth education, youth leadership development, and youth employment training programs, and a description of the applicant's relationship with local unions and youth apprenticeship programs and with community-based organizations.

(c) A description of the proposed construction site and evidence of site control, and a description of the proposed construction or rehabilitation activities to be undertaken and the anticipated schedule for carrying out those activities.

(d) A description of the educational and job training activities, work opportunities, and other services that will be provided to participants.

(e) A description of the manner in which eligible youths will be recruited and selected, including a description of the arrangements that will be made with community-based organizations, local education

1 agencies and education agencies of Native American
2 nations, public assistance agencies, courts of jurisdiction
3 for status and youth offenders, shelters for homeless
4 individuals and other agencies serving homeless youth,
5 foster care agencies, and other appropriate public
6 agencies and private entities.

7 (f) A description of the special efforts that will be
8 undertaken to recruit eligible young women as
9 participants, including women with dependent children,
10 including a description of how those women can receive
11 appropriate support, including child care.

12 (g) A description of how the proposed program will be
13 coordinated with other federal, state, Native American
14 nation, and local agency activities, including public school
15 programs, the Americorps program, crime prevention
16 programs, vocational, adult, and bilingual education
17 programs, and other job training programs.

18 (h) Substantive assurances that there will be a
19 sufficient number of adequately trained supervisory
20 personnel in the program who have attained the journey
21 level or its equivalent.

22 (i) A description of the applicant's relationship with
23 any local building trades union, including a description of
24 the union's involvement in training and the proposed
25 relationship of the activities to be undertaken pursuant to
26 the grant with established apprenticeship programs.

27 (j) A description of activities that will be undertaken
28 to develop the leadership skills of participants, including
29 their role in decisionmaking.

30 (k) A detailed budget and description of a system of
31 fiscal controls and auditing and accountability
32 procedures that will be used to ensure fiscal soundness.

33 (l) A description of any contracts and arrangements
34 entered into between the applicant and other entities,
35 including all in-kind donations and grants from both
36 public and private sources that will augment grant funds
37 made available pursuant to this article.

38 (m) Identification and description of the financing
39 proposed for any acquisition of property, or the
40 rehabilitation or construction of housing.

1 (n) Identification and description of the entity that
2 will operate and manage the property.

3 (o) A certification that the applicant will comply with
4 the requirements of applicable federal laws, including the
5 Fair Housing Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,
6 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age
7 Discrimination Act of 1975, and that the applicant will
8 work to further fair housing policies.

9 (p) A description of the qualifications and past
10 experience of the person who will be the full-time
11 director for the applicant's project to be funded pursuant
12 to this article.

13 (q) *A description of how the applicant will comply*
14 *with the requirements to recruit administrative staff*
15 *consistent with the guidelines developed by the director*
16 *pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section*
17 *9801.*

18 (r) *A description of the applicant pool profile,*
19 *including, but not limited to, the number of participants*
20 *currently on parole or probation, the number of*
21 *participants with children requiring paid supervision,*
22 *and the number of participants with Department of*
23 *Motor Vehicles or court sanctioned holds on their drivers'*
24 *licenses.*

25 9808. *The term "YouthBuild" shall only be used in*
26 *connection with a program funded pursuant to this*
27 *article or by the United States Department of Housing*
28 *and Urban Development, or if the program is an affiliate*
29 *of YouthBuild U.S.A.*

30 9809. *Each grant recipient, at the beginning of the*
31 *grant cycle, shall report to the director, at a minimum,*
32 *regarding the number of participants who have done any*
33 *of the following:*

34 (a) *Obtained a general education degree (GED).*

35 (b) *Obtained full-time, unsubsidized employment in*
36 *the building trades industry.*

37 (c) *Obtained full-time, unsubsidized employment in*
38 *other industries.*

39 (d) *Obtained part-time, unsubsidized employment in*
40 *the building trades industry or in other industries.*

1 (e) Gained acceptance into a trade apprenticeship
2 program.

3 (f) Successfully enrolled in a vocational or two-year
4 community college.

5 (g) Successfully enrolled in a state university, the
6 University of California, or any other four-year college.

7 SEC. 3. This act shall become operative only when
8 funds are specifically appropriated for the purposes of
9 this act by ~~the Budget Act of 1999~~ a state budget act.

